

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

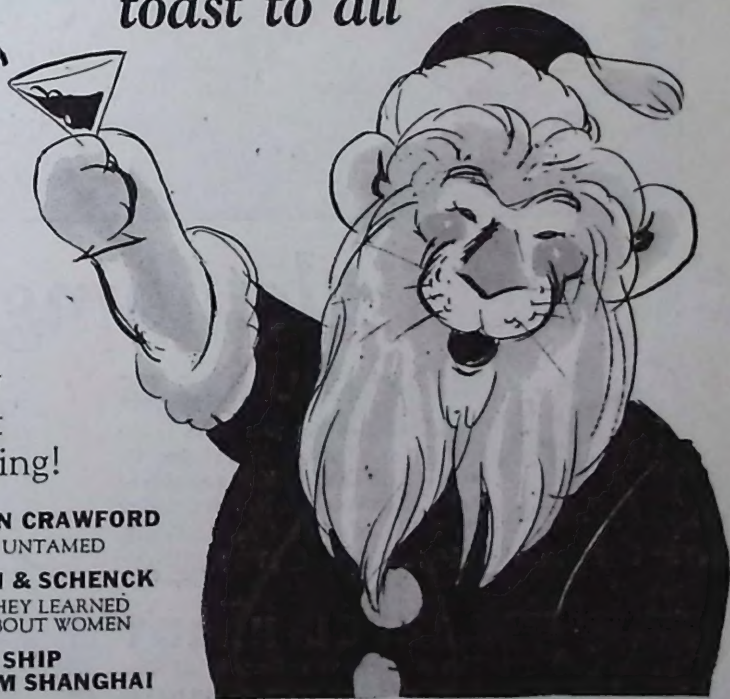
Vol. 21, No. 34

TORONTO 2, CANADA

December 21st, 1929

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

—that's Leo's toast to all
his friends!



And it's going to be a very Merry Christmas because here's what Leo's got for you And More Coming!

RAMON NOVARRO
DEVIL MAY CARE
(At \$2 Astor)

DUNCAN SISTERS
IT'S A GREAT LIFE

NORMA SHEARER
THEIR OWN DESIRE

CHARLES KING
BESSIE LOVE
CHASING RAINBOWS

WILLIAM HAINES
NAVY BLUES

THE BISHOP
MURDER CASE

JOAN CRAWFORD
UNTAMED

VAN & SCHENCK
THEY LEARNED
ABOUT WOMEN

THE SHIP
FROM SHANGHAI

METRO - GOLDWYN - MAYER

The Santa Claus of the Industry

PUBLISHED BY

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY LIMITED

259 SPADINA AVENUE, TORONTO 2

SPEAKING OF SHORT SUBJECTS



it's the little things that count!



M-G-M COLORTONE REVUES

Put your house in the de luxe class! Talent-studded, big-time, all-color! "THE DOLL SHOP" now playing with \$2 show at Selwyn, N. Y. is typical of the 12 Revues available! And here's a tip:

DATE "THE DOLL SHOP" FOR XMAS. IT'S PERFECT!



HARRY LANGDON

He's challenging the topmost money-makers in the realm of talking short comedies with his inimitably comic manner. Hal Roach has picked another winner in Langdon. Play him once and you'll never stop.



LAUREL-HARDY

They get to be an audience habit! Two reels of solid laughs. From big first runs to the smallest show-shops Hal Roach's Laurel and Hardy draw the extra dough. "THEY GO BOOM" a Broadway sensation at Capitol, N. Y. and other de luxe houses.



CHARLEY CHASE

The talkies have given Charlie Chase a new impetus at box-offices. His stage talents are capitalized now in the cleverest comic capers currently offered. "CRAZY FEET" reveals a dance mimicry that's side-splitting. Good-time-Charley!



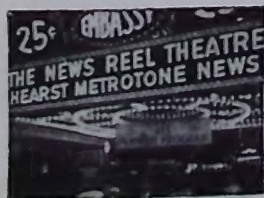
METRO MOVIE-TONE ACTS

Twenty-six new Acts ready for you. M-G-M's library of 104 Movietone Acts represents the highest quality in names and entertainment value. Operatic, vaudeville, bands, sketches, movietone revues—in every field here's quality!



OUR GANG

From tiny Wheeler to dusky Farina and Pete, the dog, this gang of laughmakers is twice as good talking as in their silent days. Bill the Gang like a feature. They steal the show.



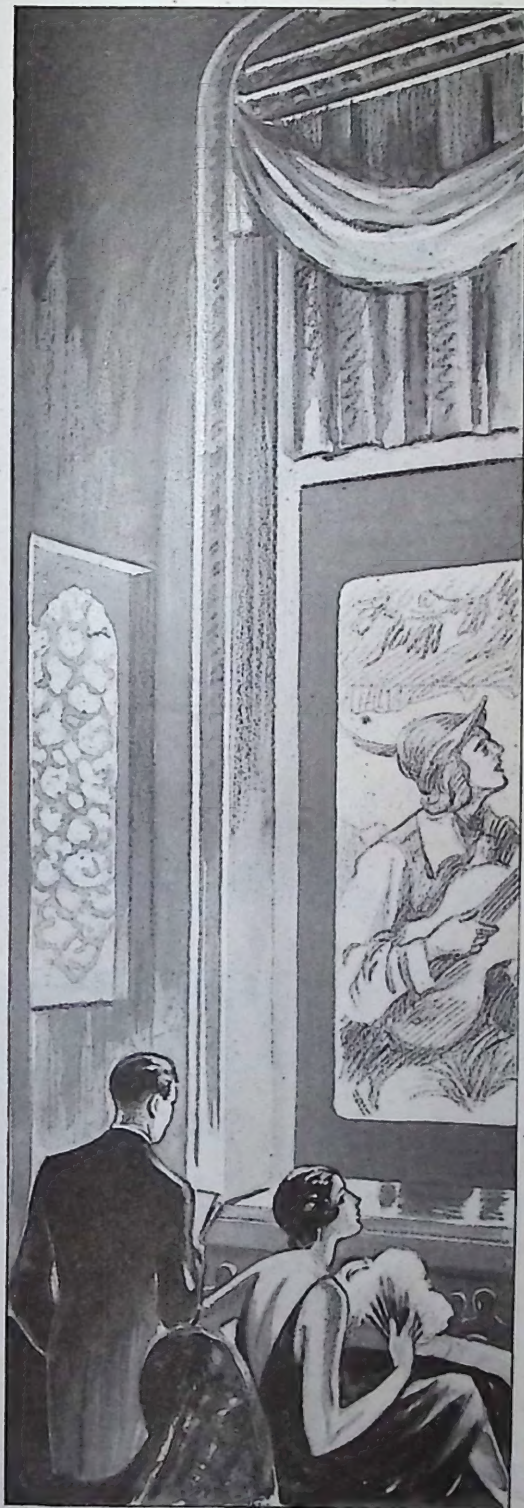
HEARST METRO-TONE NEWS

Our policy of News in Newsreels continues! A success from the start. The Newsreel Theatre on Broadway showing exclusively Hearst Metrotone News and Fox Movietone News is your tip to build business with Hearst Metrotone News!

METRO GOLDWYN MAYER



Long On
Shorts!



SOUND PICTURES

at their best



All the latest films produced by the companies shown here are practically one hundred per cent talking. And only the best results are obtained when they are reproduced upon the Northern Electric Sound System.

This System delivers Sound in natural and undistorted tones. It is the result of investigations carried on in the largest research organization in the world. It is installed only by those who are experienced in this line of work.

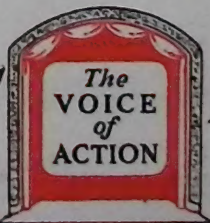
Northern Electric Sound Systems are serviced by a staff of experts. Stocks are carried at convenient points across Canada for quick delivery.

Full information upon request.

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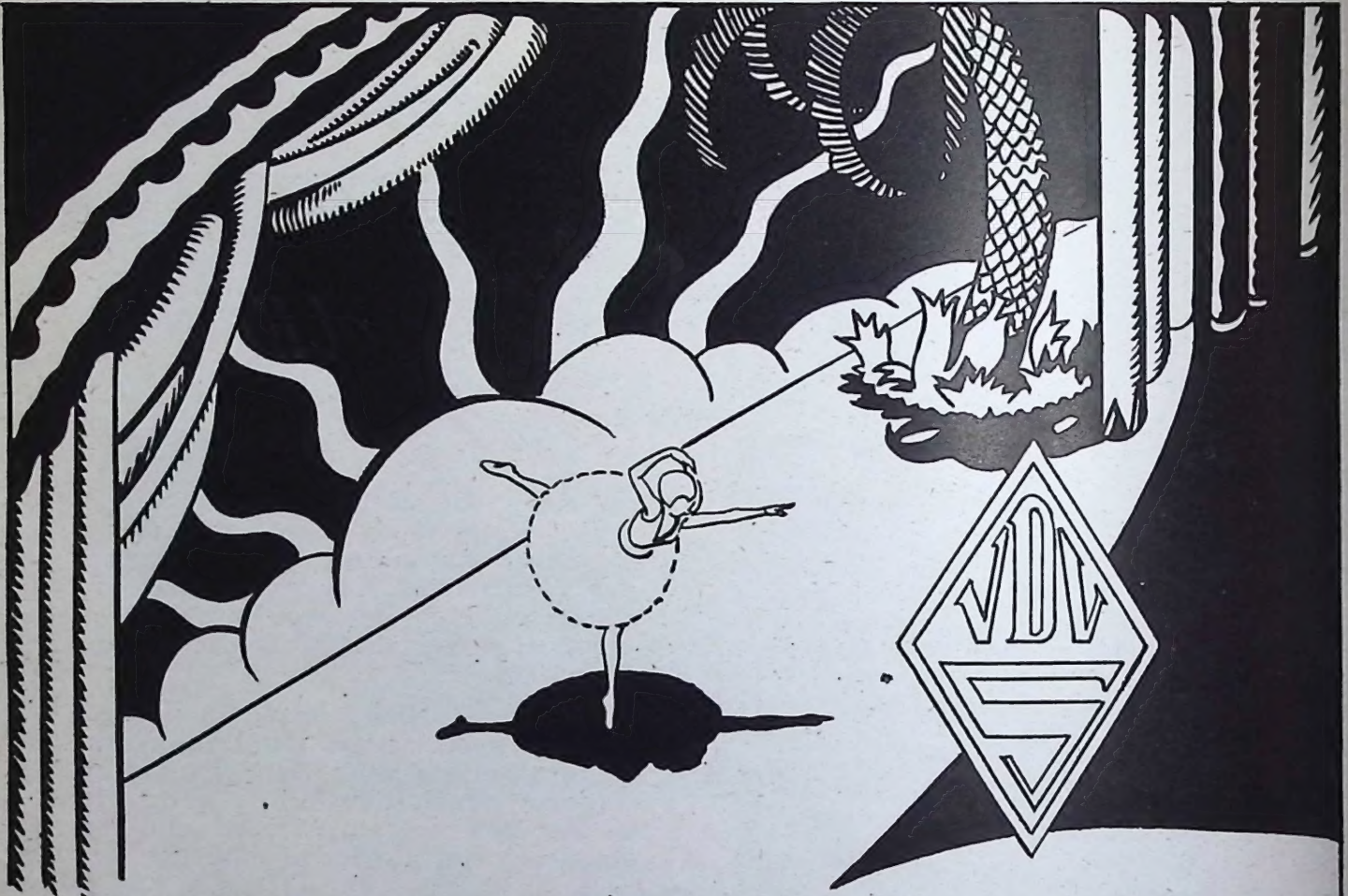
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Canada's Most Completely Equipped Studio

for

Designing, Producing and Installing

Theatrical Scenery and Draperies

Beautifying Utility



A Merry Christmas



NO CHRISTMAS greeting sounds more satisfying, more complete, or more indicative of good-will, for which this day has been blessed, than "A Merry Christmas."

It is a day of rejoicing at home and at your theatre, for it is one of the Big Show Days of the Year, when showmen make a special effort to present a holiday entertainment worth twice the price of admission; and when the public usually responds in numbers, and with a responsive spirit that makes their own heart, and the heart of the theatreowner, his players, his associates, "Merry."

Christmas is a holiday of holidays, it brings us to the close of a year; and upon the threshold of a New Year which re-awakens our hope for bigger and better things, for the fulfillment of enterprises with which we have just become associated; and for the fulfillment of enterprises which we have built upon a foundation to be laid in the New Year.

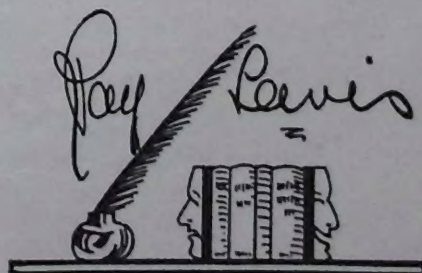
The human personality likes to step out of worn shoes, and to step into new ones, trusting to break these into its step.

We like to feel that the Old Year, if it has been a harassing one, is about to pass away from us; and with the New Year we will leave "our troubles behind," and at least have the thrill, the vision which accompanies that experience so well-expressed in the words of the poet, "Things won are done, Joy's soul lies in the doing."

Christmas with its message of The Birth of the Wonder Child, is like a prophet heralding the Birth of The New Year Babe, wrapped in the Swaddling Robes of Mystery; and being also a "Wonder Child," for us.

We, in the Industry of Motion Pictures can roll our eyes backwards, since the Christmas of 1928, and see with an inner vision that we are marching forward, in an age where large territories are covered in the "twinkling of an eye," and where our Industry, like other Industries, finds that "the limit is the sky."

A Merry Christmas to you from me,
and may we all be here to wish each
other a Merry Christmas next year.





WINS AGAIN!

As last year, FOX has been awarded the PHOTOPLAY gold medal for the best picture of the year. Nation-wide balloting among over a million readers of PHOTOPLAY resulted in the selection of . . .

FOUR SONS

Directed by **JOHN FORD**

Whose latest production

MEN WITHOUT WOMEN

is a story of a group of men trapped in a submarine 16 fathoms under. As death approaches their thoughts and conversation turn to the women they've loved. Women are talked about as men talk about women when they're alone. It is the greatest of FORD'S productions. Love, hatred, fear, courage, madness — all are blended with consummate skill in this remarkable undersea sensation. In the cast are: KENNETH MACKENNA, Farrell Macdonald, Frank Albertson, Stuart Erwin, Warren Hymer, Paul Page, Walter McGrail. Story by John Ford and James K. McGuinness. Dialog by Dudley Nichols. Staged by Andrew Bennison. Presented by WILLIAM FOX.



RAY



RAY LEWIS

PRESENTS

THE GOOD-WILL, of theatres in Canada runs into not less than 50 millions, and a new chain is soon to be introduced with an initial capitalization of \$25,000,000.

The good-will of the various exchanges runs into millions also; and the good-will of the Industry as a whole, including its Trade and Commerce angles, its service as an Employer, its educational, cultural and entertainment value, its community aspect, and its land development angles, would mount up into millions upon millions of dollars.

Is this Canadian Moving Picture Industry, with its multi-million-dollar value, able to support one Canadian Moving Picture Trade paper, which is essentially Canadian, and being Canadian, friendly to all nations, seeking a reciprocal good-will; and revealing in its spirit that Canadian slant on our Industry, and on Life which makes Canada among all nations, distinctive as a nation?

The Canadian Moving Picture Digest appeals to you exhibitors to keep it Canadian. To keep it Independent. To help it to grow in Showmanship, in Power and in Service.

Your subscription is \$5.00, for fifty-two copies of the Industry as "Young Canada" sees it. Fifty-two copies, one a week, covering a subscription of one year.

"Give the little gal your five." A Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. My thanks for your past co-operation.

AMONG many of The Digest's subscriptions reaching this office, we find one from Robert S. Roddick, manager of the Capitol, London, which has a note to "Dear Ray" and such words of comfort as follows, "Enclosed please find \$5.00 money order for another year's subscription to the justly famous Digest."

Which plainly shows you that there is nothing in life which is inanimate. All things live; and even The Digest, Canada's one and only National Trade Paper with an International News value, has sense and feeling sufficiently to appreciate subscriptions which are not only paid, but have "words of gold" accompanying them! Thanks, "Robert," for the subscription and the "kind words." Thanks also to the other subscribers who have been "giving the little gal a hand" consistently!

We had a visit from F. N. G. Spencer of our most important Maritime Provinces. He reports that business is not unusual, but that the Spencer Circuit is playing the best; and in some cases it looks as if they are running ahead of our schedule on playdates. We mentioned a few good pictures which we thought Mr. Spencer should not miss, but we found out that he hadn't, he had already played them. "F. N. G." is one of our fine showmen in Canada in which

we take much pride, and we were happy to learn that the Maritime Provinces is beginning to "get her innings" among the sister provinces of our Dominion.

WE CANNOT help but offer our congratulations to Col. John A. Cooper on the success of the Public Relations Conference which recently was held in Toronto. Every representative organization in Canada, such as those governing child welfare, social service, education, politics, etc., had a representative in attendance, as well as our own Industry which was represented in all its various amplifications, from B. E. Norrish, who represents The Associated Screen News, to Jack Arthur, representing the cultural influence of Motion Pictures, through its musical auxiliaries.

And now since we approach a holiday, which already invokes us to be merry, let us deal with a letter which we received from our H. M. Thomas, of the Famous Players Canadian Corporation, apropos of "the baby" he handed your editor:

DEAR "MISS" LEWIS:

I They say a certain place is paved with good intentions (I trust I am at least quoting 45% correctly) so when I wrote about your "Sunny Boy," I was at least sincere, not thinking for one moment that my "typewritership" might embarrass your nom de plume.

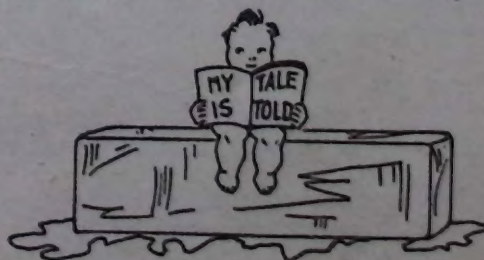
Anyway, the Angels of Winnipeg were telling me about the young Mr. Smith, so with my instinct for news, I thought I might put over a scoop. And I think I did.

The best proof that my boys read your clever "sheet" is that every town I visit one of the first things they say is: "Did you see what Ray Lewis said about you in last week's issue of The Digest?"

FOR YOUR information, beg to advise that I have been out in the grand and glorious West since July, which accounts for the fact that you have not heard from me.

Anyway, here's hoping that you received something besides congratulations (a quart of champagne or something on that order) and with kindest personal regards."

No, I did not receive the champagne, but since you, Mr. Thomas, made the "scoop," the champagne for "Little Mother" is due from the creator of "My Cheeld."



Observations



By The Editor

"Let he who observes, observe that he too is being observed in his observations; and therefor let him make his remarks as he observes the subject of them, nor add a tittle, nor a jot to that which passeth between the observer and the observed. So by these rules may all men know the observer is observant."

SOME weeks back we had a Paramount picture with Will Rogers, "They Had To See Paris," at the Uptown, Toronto. It was a hit all the way; and Will Rogers went over as big as his name, which is big enough to be box-office, "here, there and everywhere." Will and his family "strike oil." If your audience is interested in seeing what this does to a family, let Will Rogers show them. His family "had to see Paris," and the daughter nearly married one of those titles that are still attached to good-looking bachelors, long on gallantry, albeit they are short on cash.

* * * *

ANOTHER Paramount picture which is excellent entertainment and different is "The Virginian," playing the Tivoli this week. Gary Cooper and Mary Brian play the leads. They make an appetizing tie-up. Victor Fleming directed and the interest is not only "well sustained," as we say in pictures, but it develops into a real western thriller of the finest kind. Some of the pictorial flashes; and the scenes of the cattle round-up have an immensity of handling about them which is inspiring. The cast is one of note and artistry throughout.

* * * *

ANOTHER entertaining picture at Loew's this week is Bessie Love, in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's "The Girl in the Show." It deals with "Uncle Tom's Cabin" doing one-night stands, in Ye Good Olde Days. Imagine our surprise when we discover Bessie Love as "Little Eva," and getting away with it too, most beautifully. I would like to see Bessie Love in a talking version of "Such a Little Queen," how this fine little artist would queen it. This picture is a treat for Show Folks, but judging by laughs, it looked as if the rest of the public "were wise." The public today is wise to everything. There are no longer any stage secrets. The public knows everything.

* * * *

THE ANGEL, who happens to be an undertaker, does not marry "Little Eva" after all, for she decides to remain in Show Business with Simon Legree for a life-partner. "Eva the Fifth," by John Golden and John Kenyon Nicholson is the story from which "The Girl in the Show" was adapted. Edgar Selwyn who directed knows his "Show Business."

* * * *

THE EXHIBITORS Co-Operative Organization had a most interesting luncheon assembly on Tuesday, Dec. 17th, at the King Edward, Toronto, the occasion being a presentation of a gift, or shall we say gifts, to Mr. Earl Lawson, associated with the organization in a big way.

Mr. Lawson was presented with a Wardrobe Trunk and two fitted leather bags, while Mrs. Lawson received two fitted ladies' leather travelling bags, both handsomely equipped.

The luncheon was well-attended by the various members of the Association and representatives of our Exchanges.

CLAIR HAGUE, of Universal, called the "Daddy of the Industry," made his remarks one of good wishes, and since "brevity is the soul of wit," "Our Little Big Fellow" was witty and brief.

Bill Bailey officiated as Chairman, being the President and one of the enthusiastic promoters and supporters of the Co-Operative.

His introductions were brief, but to the point, as were his comments at the conclusion of the addresses by the various speakers.

* * * *

THE LUNCHEON was informal and no one endeavored to be oratorical. Haskel Masters, said just what one would expect from this United Artists' Canadian representative. He did not wreath his Truths with any garlands, even though there might have been a certain "cut" in some of his remarks. In fact his references had to do with "cutting prices," and were inspired from a story which the secretary of the organization told, during his address. Mr. Taylor had repeated a story dealing with the sale of a pair of pants to a certain Hebrew, who after numerous bargainings, finally offered the salesman nothing, on a \$2.00 offer.

* * * *

MR. MASTERS stated in no uncertain terms that distributors were "on the level" with "on the level" exhibitors, but what they objected to was the "nothing" offer on a compromise sale at \$2.00. The sincerity and the good sense of Mr. Master's extemporaneous remarks were apparent; and therefor applauded.

* * * *

"BUD" LENNON, an officer and executive of the company, propounded the "gyp" policy which permeated our Industry; and revealed that the local managers were helpless in making prices, or decisions, since the Home Office functioned entirely on such matters.

"Bud" is an old-timer in our Industry; and his "gyp" theory is certainly based on fact, but it is not restricted to distributors; nor is it an exclusive property found only in our Industry. Other enterprises operate on the same basis of "giving nothing for something," or getting the biggest price, for the least value.

* * * *

HOWEVER, since the Co-Operative spirit has not only linked groups of exhibitors together, welding them in strength; and doing likewise for distributors, the strength and good sense of both of these co-operative units of our Industry, determines their mode of operation, or shall we say code of operation; and since both these units are endeavoring to do business to-day on a "Give and Take" basis of values, the "gyp" policy is being outlawed.

* * * *

"BUD" buys pictures; and as Mr. Lawson, in his address remarked, the Co-Operative placed him in that position because Exchanges and exhibitors both

(Continued on page 14)



VINCENT DE VITA

Artistic creator of De Vita Studios.

eur Theatres, on which there is so much current discussion. What is most interesting about this enterprise is the fact that, not only are the studios equipped to handle the biggest kind of work, but the little theatre can have such service as it requires.

"BEAUTIFYING UTILITY" is the De Vita Studios' Slogan; and when you see dismal radiators, turned into summer gardens with trellaced effects, and ordinary

A VISIT to the De Vita Studios, at 255 Richmond St. W., reveals an institution, which measures up to the spirit of Canadian Enterprise, which is pioneering and progressive.

The Studio is equipped to handle anything in theatre scenery, or decorative work; and while there, the men were at work on a drop which was large enough to fit into one of the Grand-

fronts of theatres made to present a palatial appearance, when you see beautifully decorated and improvised screens, made to fit into dark, or uninteresting corners, you begin to realize why the "Beautifying Utility" is a demonstrable fact.

"IT LOOKS like everything from a pin to an elephant, in the theatre line," said The Digest reviewer to Mr. De Vita, and this enterprising and progressive owner of these studios replied, "Yes, everything that concerns Show Business from its exhibition and publicity angles, everything that indicates Beauty; and a combination of the useful and the beautiful."

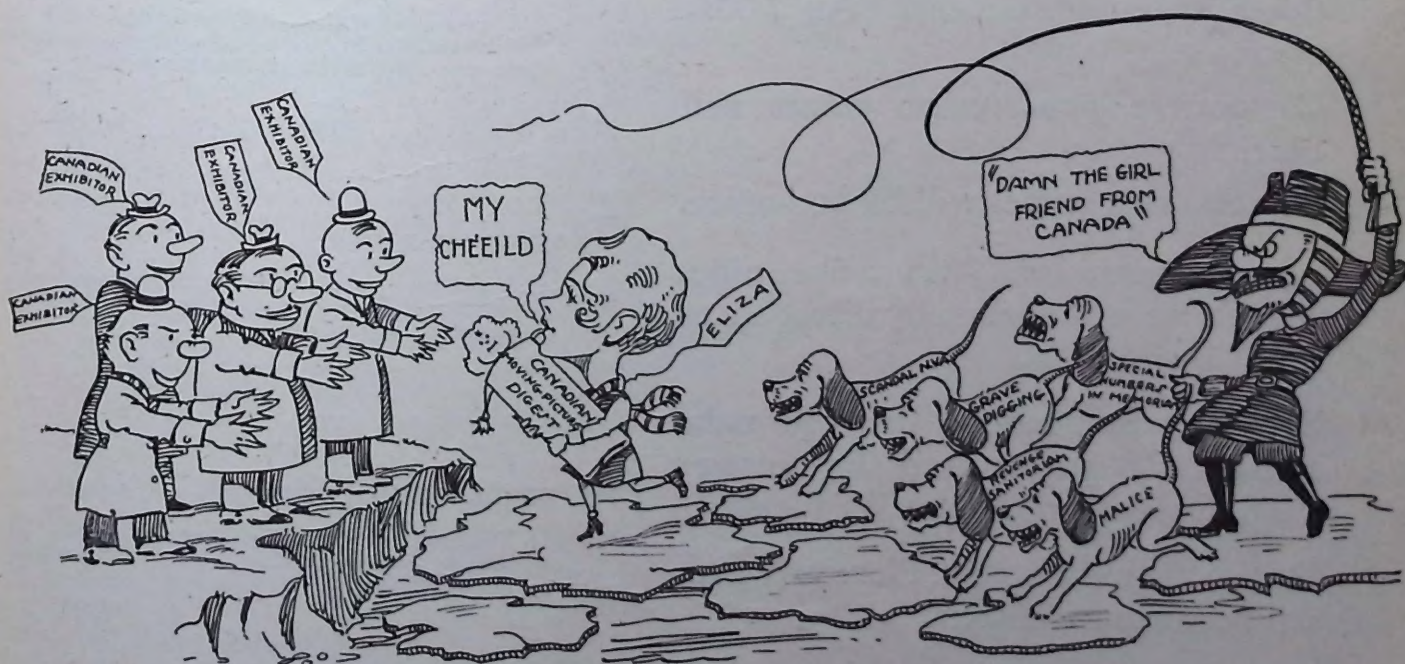
Mr. Vincent De Vita was engaged originally by the Vaughan Glaser Stock Company, so well-known to Torontonians, as Art Director when that company had its many successful seasons at the Uptown and Victoria Theatres.

It is said in Toronto, that Vaughan Glaser broke in the Uptown most beautifully for the Famous Players, establishing the house successfully from a Showman's point of view.

NOR is De Vita's talents and ability restricted to theatre work only, he was Art Director for the Robert Simpson Company's spectacular fashion shows, for Malcolm Fassett, for the Junior League's Productions at the Royal Alexander, for the spectacular and interesting pageant which the Women's Auxiliary of the Anglican Church presented, Art Director for all Captain Plunkett's productions, of the "Dumbells."

HE HAS designed and made scenery for Pantages, Loew's, Famous Players theatres; and the modernistic motif of the stage setting of the Tivoli. The Capitol, North Bay, boasts of some startling draperies which reveal the skill and artistry of De Vita.

Uncle Tom's Cabin in which Ray Lewis and "Sime" play leading parts



Eliza makes a getaway from Simon Legree who flourishes his whip while his bloodhounds howl - but all is in vain - for Canadian Exhibitors reach out their arms and welcome Eliza to freedom.

A New Company greet you-

SONO-ART WORLD WIDE PICTURES, Inc.

*Distributors of Productions made by Showmen
for the box-office.*

WE INVITE your consideration
of our first list of productions
for the current season.

Much care has been given to the
selection of the stories. They're
modern. They were picked for their
music, sound, dialogue possibilities—
the new entertainment. All 100%
talkers.

Of course production values will
be right.

Star and cast names will be box-office.

James Cruze, Inc., will make nine.
Mr. Cruze will personally direct three
and supervise six.

Sono-Art Productions, Inc. will make
nine, all supervised by either
O. E. Goebel or George W. Weeks.

British International Pictures, Ltd.
will contribute several.

With this announcement this company
formally opens for business. The only
"policy" we proclaim is product sold
on its merit at fair prices, and the best
distribution service we can give.

Sono-Art Productions, Inc.

O. E. Goebel, President
Geo. W. Weeks, Vice-President

Presents

"RENO," Starring RUTH ROLAND

In her talking debut. From the sensational story of
divorce colony by Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr., published
in the Hearst newspapers and magazines.

"SAWDUST AND SATIN"

A human interest circus story co-starring Jacqueline L.
Frankie Darro with an outstanding cast in support. D.
T. Hayes Hunter.

"HEART STRINGS"

A romance of old California with the singing stars, J.
and Lois Wendrell. Hard-riding men and beautiful
the most thrilling era of the Old West.

"SWANEE RIVER"

A love story on the order of "Show Boat," with a s.
breaking of dam and flood climax. A charming musi
ground of the Old South.

"TALK OF HOLLYWOOD"

The first talking, singing, dancing, laughing expose
making, starring Nat Carr, with Miss Fay Marbe. A m
rich production.

"THEY ALL WANT SOMETHING," Starring REGINALD DENNY

A comedy drama from the stage play by Courtenay S.
story of the lover who masquerades as a tramp to win
girl. Lavish production.

Physical Distribution Through Educational Exchanges

ALL 100% TALKERS

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 Henry D. Meyer, Sec'y-Treas.
 Nat Cordish, Vice-Pres. and G. M.

*Presents***"THE GREAT GABBO,"**Starring **ERICH VON STROHEIM**

With Betty Compson and Margie Kane. From the story by Ben Hecht. Directed by James Cruze. Presented by Henry D. Meyer and Nat Cordish. Distributed by arrangement with Samuel Zierler and Harry H. Thomas.

"CIRCUS PARADE"

From the novel by Jim Tully, personally directed by James Cruze. Unquestionably one of the most valuable story properties on the market. Now being dramatized for Broadway production.

"THE BIG FIGHT"

From the Belasco stage play by Max Marcin and Milton Grooper. Personally directed by James Cruze. A powerful love story in which the prize ring and underworld is the background.

"CLIPPED WINGS"

A modern youth picture from the story in the Delineator Magazine by Rita Lambert, supervised by James Cruze. Directed by Walter Lang.

"ONCE A GENTLEMAN"

From the humorous Novelette by George Worts in the Argosy magazine. Directed by Walter Lang. Personally supervised by James Cruze. Strong cast headed by a well-known star.

"ANN BOYD"

From the novel by Will N. Harben. Supervised by James Cruze. Directed by Walter Lang. The dramatic hatred of one pioneer woman for another against a background of small town and farming life.

"SOUL OF THE TANGO"

A sophisticated, present-day Argentine story supervised by James Cruze. Its dramatic material, picturesque setting and musical features promise marvelous possibilities. Directed by Walter Lang.

JAMES CRUZE SUPERVISED PRODUCTION

As yet untitled.

JAMES CRUZE SUPERVISED PRODUCTION

As yet untitled.

World Wide Pictures, Inc.*Presents***"ATLANTIC"**

A big powerful drama, based on the sinking of the Titanic. An E. A. Dupont production, adapted from "The Berg," by Ernest Raymond. A British International Picture.

"UP THE CONGO,"Presented by **ALICE M. O'BRIEN**

A motion picture taken on a trip across darkest Africa by two American women. The film is described in an entertaining story-talk as the picture runs. Animals, natives and the hazards of the journey make this an unusually interesting subject.

"HARMONY HEAVEN"

Musical—all dialogue, singing and dancing spectacle, directed by Alfred Hitchcock. Musical score and lyrics by Eddie Pola and Edward Brandt. A British International Picture.

"BLACKMAIL"

Internationally hailed by critics as a real accomplishment of the talking screen. A British International Picture.

"HATE SHIP"

One of the first talking sea pictures. Something like "The Blood Ship." From the novel by Bruce Graeme. Director, Captain Norman Walker. A British International Picture.

"TAMBOURINE"

Adapted from the story by Pauline Firmin-Heumont. A music-drama. Modern society background. A British International Picture.

"CARNIVAL"

The world famous novel by Compton Mackenzie, in which the dialog will be written by the author. A romance of Venice and London to be lavishly produced. A British International Picture.

"THE PLAYTHING"

Directed by Carleton Knight. Adapted from the play, "Life's Pretty Much the Same." A British International Picture.

"MARY WAS LOVE"

Adapted from the novel by Guy Fletcher, directed by Manning Haynes. One of the sweetest love stories ever told—has been read by millions of women and girls the world over. A British International Picture.

"HER COMPULSORY HUSBAND"

Directed by Harry Lachman, starring Lillian Manton. A story of modern matrimony in swift society. Delightfully humorous, with several strong dramatic situations. A British International Picture.

The
**PREMIER
 GROUP**
 for 1929-30



GEO. W. WEEKS
Executive Vice-President



EARL JAMES LAWSON

Associated with and promoting the Exhibitors Co-Operative of Canada.

The following excerpt from the "Canadian Parliamentary Guide," gives a short, but interesting biography of Earl James Lawson (York West). Born October 21, 1891, at Hamilton, Ont. Son of James Lawson, Canadian, born in Scotland, and Jennie Lawson, Canadian. Educated at Hamilton and Ottawa Public Schools, Ottawa Collegiate and Osgoode Hall. Married December 15th, 1915, to Anita Blanche, daughter of Lewis James Bateman of Toronto. Two children: Dorothy Jane and James Bolton. Director of Buscombe and Dodds Limited, Exhibitors Co-Operative Limited, Market Securities Ltd., Manitoba Pas Mining Co., Ltd.; Na-

tional Fur Farms Limited. Member of Albany Club, Summit Golf and Country Club, Islington Golf Club, Art Gallery of Toronto, Liberal-Conservative Business Men's Club, Lawyers' Club, and Empire Club. First elected to House of Commons at by-election, October 29th, 1928, by acclamation. Party policy — a Conservative. Religion, United Church of Canada. Address, 27 Ridout Street, Toronto, Ontario.

The general esteem in which Mr. Lawson is held needs no biographical comment, since he is judged by his works; and his works appear to be savoury unto God and Man.

The Directors, Officers
and Members of
The Exhibitors Co-Operative
of Canada,
extend to you and yours,
The Season's Greetings.

J. Earl Lawson,
National Chairman.

F. R. Lennon,
National Buyer.

N. A. Taylor,
National Secretary-Treas.

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Let us tell you how the Silent Sentinel will Safeguard your BOX OFFICE Receipts and Speed up your Business.

ATTENTION
THEATRE OWNERS

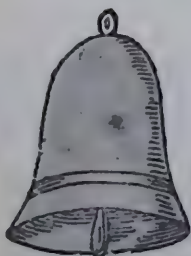
A live wire Operator, or Theatre Manager with 21 years experience, and with a thorough knowledge of Sound equipment, wishes to work in Toronto

BOX 3—DIGEST

THEATRE WANTED

Will buy or lease theatre in Toronto or vicinity. Sound equipment preferred.

BOX 11—DIGEST



When hearth fires burn
and candles brightly glow,
It seems that thoughts
and wishes warmer grow
So may this little
word to you recall
Our fondest thought
the oldest wish of all



"Merrie Christmas"

THE COLEMAN ELECTRIC COMPANY

Canada's Leading Theatre Supply House
258 VICTORIA ST. - TORONTO, ONT.

Press Headline Nathanson-Fox-Warner Deal



N. L. NATHANSON

Showmen Behind Nathanson Purchase of Montreal Theatre Site



SIR HERBERT SAMUEL HOLT, C.E.

(Photo by "Who's Who In Canada.")

NOT MUCH WATER has flowed under our bridges, since the time The Digest first announced the retirement of N. L. Nathanson from the managing directorship of Famous Players Canadian.

At that period the press were unanimous in declaring that "N. L." had retired from Show Business; and "N. L." it must be admitted, encouraged this belief; and no doubt in all sincerity at that time. But since Time heals all wounds; and women have no exclusive prerogative on the doctrine of "changing your mind," it looks as if your editor has some ability in deciphering the "handwriting on the wall."

THE \$25,000,000 new theatre deal which N. L. Nathanson is promoting for Canada, has in association with the project, the name of Sir Herbert Holt.

In addition to this illustrious name, we find that the daily press are now publishing that Fox and Warners are both tied up with "N. L." on the purchase of the Montreal site, on St. Catherine St. One only has to add the name of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer to present a tie-up which is as colossal as it is secure.

THE PRESS in general have not yet sensed the M-G-M angle, only your editor, who has a habit of peering into crystals and tea-cups; and seeing therein combinations which so far appear to not only materialize, but come true and function.

You remember that your editor said that "N. L." was too quiet to be quiet? During this apparent passive state, theatre sites were located and secured through diverse ways and means. It was like playing checkers, with all kinds of moves to conceal the real move.

THE TORONTO DAILY STAR, publishes the following from a special Star correspondent in Montreal: "Identification of the interests behind N. L. Nathanson in his purchase of the St. Catherine Street block here and the founding of a new chain of moving picture theatres in Canada, are disclosed here today by an authentic informant, to be Warner Bros. and the Fox Corp."

"Prediction is made to-day that if everything goes well and these interests keep control of St. Catherine Street property and complete bargains now pending for theatre sites in other cities, that a large control of the motion picture business within six months will be assured to Fox Corp., and Warner Bros."

Among the interests with which the name of Sir Herbert is identified are the following: President, Royal Bank of Canada; Director, Canadian Pacific Railway; President, Montreal Light, Heat and Power Co.; President, St. Maurice Valley Corporation; Chairman, Port Alfred Pulp and Paper Co.; President, Montreal Trust Co.; Vice-President, Dominion Textile, Ltd.; Director, Canada Paper Co.; Director, Pennsylvania Water and Power Co.; Director, Imperial Life Assurance Co. of Canada; Director, British Empire Steel Corporation; Vice-President, Montreal Cotton Company; Director, Monterey Railway, Light and Power Company; Director, Ogilvie Flour Mills Company Limited; Director, Price Bros. and Co., Ltd.; Director, Shawinigan Water and Power Co.; Director, Sun Life Assurance Co. of Canada; President, Belgo-Canadian Paper Co.; Director, St. Maurice Power Co.; Director, Paton Mfg. Co.; Director, Ritz-Carlton Hotel Co., Ltd.; Director, International Power Securities Corporation.

Sir Herbert was born in Dublin, Ireland, 1856, son of William Robert Grattan Holt. Educated: Dublin, Ireland. Came to Canada in 1875, Civil Engineering, with Credit Valley, Victoria, Lake Simcoe Junction and Ontario and Quebec Railways, 1875-1883. Engineer and Superintendent of Construction, Prairie and Mountain Divisions, C.P.R., 1883-1884; carried out extensive contracts in Rocky Mountains, Quebec and State of Maine, for C.P.R., 1884-1889; in partnership with Messrs. Ross, Mackenzie and Mann, built the Regina, Qu'Appelle and Long Lake and the Calgary and Edmonton Railways, 1889-1892; with other capitalists, re-organized Montreal Gas Co., of which he became President; this company was merged into the Montreal Light, Heat and Power Co., 1901, when he became its President; elected President Royal Bank of Canada, 1908; Governor, Montreal General Hospital; Governor, Royal Victoria Hospital; Governor, McGill University; one of the principal promoters of the Typhoid Emergency Hospital, Montreal, 1910; Councillor, Montreal Art Association; Member, American Society of Civil Engineers; Member, Canadian Society of Civil Engineers. Married Jessie Paton, daughter of late Andrew Paton, Sherbrooke, Que., 1890; has three sons. Clubs: Mount Royal, St. James', Forest and Stream, Royal St. Lawrence Yacht, Royal Montreal Golf, Montreal Hut, Toronto, York (Toronto), Rideau (Ottawa) Conservative. Anglican.

Observations

(Continued from page 8)

declared he was one of the "toughest" with which either side had to deal. Incidentally we agree with Mr. Lawson in stating that "Bud's" bark is worse than his bite."

* * * *

A PROPOS of "Bud's" remarks, H. V. O'Connor, of Regal, chimed in when "Bud" talked of distributors using "Bull" all the way through, "Yes, and exhibitors are synchronizing with us."

Mr. H. V. O'Connor was given the honour of toasting the King, and Jules Lavine gave the toast to the Exhibitors Co-Operative. Nat Taylor replied, and stressed the "Reciprocity Angle."

* * * *

COL. JOHN A. COOPER made a brief, but forceful address, pointing out to those assembled that the first clause in the Constitution of the Hays Organization was "Co-Operation," for that purpose the Hays Organization was founded. Col. Cooper then related certain episodes in relationship to the Public Relations Conference, stressing its exhibitor value, since it is with Public Relations that exhibitors are directly concerned.

YOUR EDITOR was present, representing the press; and to which press, and contemporary publications the Chairman gave thanks in general, for their fair and generous consideration of the objective of Exhibitors Co-Operative.

* * * *

MR. EARL LAWSON in accepting, with thanks, the gift, of the organization, which he has so ably sponsored, left no doubt in the minds of those assembled as to the policy and objective of the "Co-Operative."

"The Exhibitors Co-Operative," said he, "was organized for the purpose of having exhibitors co-operate with each other for their mutual as well as individual benefits."

"Its relationship with distributors is apparent; and both exhibitors and distributors have a large field in which they have a common interest. The business of trading is one of bartering, but such bartering can be done in a friendly spirit. The Co-Operative is not interested in buying cheap film, or films cheap, exhibitors are willing to pay a price which they can afford to pay, with a fair chance of making a profit. Three principles of operation are definitely defined, "no cutting in prices," "no over-buying," "no breaking of contracts." For the latter offence a member is liable for suspension," said the speaker.





Show Business



The name "Pantages" comes down from the electric lights atop theatres in Canada on January 1, according to the official announcement of Eastern Theatres, Limited. Alexander Pantages merely booked acts into these houses but with the dropping of his name new policies will be adopted. Large houses in Toronto, Hamilton and Western cities are affected. The new names have not been divulged.

Twenty-five cents in conscience money was received by Manager Joe Franklin of B. F. Keith's Theatre, Ottawa, and then the trouble began. An accompanying note said the sender had passed a plugged coin at the box-office. There was no trace of the "quarter" and so Franklin offered to make the money good if the coin had been given to any other patron. This brought a flood of claimants but none could produce the evidence. Franklin decided to buy some more stocks with the "two bits" but friends made him drop it into the Christmas Pot at the corner.

Smoke, but no fire, caused a rush of 2,000 patrons at Loew's Theatre, London, Ontario, when the exhaust fans caused a back draft. Manager Jackson's ushers carried out their drill without a hitch and no one was hurt. The greater part of the audience returned to their seats to see the rest of the feature.

After three years' occupancy of the Galvin Theatre at Ottawa, Ontario, the Galvin Players Stock Company admitted defeat at the hands of the talking picture theatres, the closing stage performance being held Saturday night, December 14.

Because audiences in theatres of Windsor, Ontario, shuffled out during the playing of the National anthem, the local chapter of the Daughters of the Empire has petitioned exhibitors to use trailers to educate the people to recognize the National air.

As a bid for continued patronage during the Christmas shopping season, Manager George Rotsky of the Palace Theatre, Montreal, used newspaper advertising space to invite Christmas shoppers to attend the special morning and early evening performances, to check their parcels free at the theatre and to make use of the rest rooms.

A broadcast through the powerful Canadian Government station CNRO from the stage of B. F. Keith's Theatre, Ottawa, is a regular feature every Monday night at 9.30 o'clock, the presentation of the program being in full view of the audience. It brings big crowds to the theatre on Mondays and serves to advertise the week's bill over the air. The unique tie-up was arranged by Manager Joe Franklin.

The Embassy Theatre, N.Y., is doing a continuous packed business at 25 cents admission, commencing 11 a.m. and continuing until 1 a.m., with News Reels only. The Hearst Metrotone and Fox Movietone are the attractions.

Three thousand children, mostly orphans and cripples, attended the annual Christmas entertainment at B. F. Keith's, Ottawa, as guests of Manager J. M. Franklin, the Santa Claus treat being held under the auspices of Rotary, of which Franklin is an officer.

An Old Toy Matinee was also held at the Regent Theatre, Ottawa, on the same date, December 14, when Manager Ray Tubman asked for a toy instead of the usual admission price, the attraction being "Four Feathers." The toys are to be distributed by the Boy Scouts among needy families.

P. J. Nolan, President of the Nolan Theatre Enterprises, Ottawa, Ontario, has wired his third local house, the Columbia Theatre, serving the West End suburbs. The equipment is Western Electric.

The first theatre in Hull, a city of 35,000, to be wired is the Laurier, owned by Donat Paquin, which opened December 14 with "Broadway Melody," accompaniment being Western Electric. The Eden and Capitol Theatres, Hull, owned by Paquin, have been closed.

(Special to Digest from Winnipeg)

OFFICIALS and employees of the Famous Players Canadian Corporation, and of RKO Canada, Limited, enjoyed a pre-Christmas "get together" Friday evening, in honor of H. M. Thomas, Western Division Manager of the two organizations, before his return to Toronto. Nearly 300 persons participated in the function, which began at the Gaiety Theatre with a private screening of "So This Is College," one of the big pictures of the year. Following the screening a reception dance was held at the Roseland Dance Gardens, the hall being appropriately decorated for the occasion. Syd. Barnes was an admirable master of ceremonies and some of the artists from the RKO Capitol Theatre contributed to the enjoyment with "bits" from their experiences in the show business.

THE COMMITTEE on arrangements consisted of Walter F. Davis, Chas. Weiner, F. Willis, Wm. Novak, W. H. Kershaw and Ted Gould and the theatres represented were: RKO Capitol, Metropolitan, RKO Winnipeg, Gaiety, Osborne, Tivoli, Arlington, Wonderland and Crescent.

Incidentally it is rumoured that Mr. Thomas may again make his headquarters in Winnipeg, which appears to be advantageous, as Winnipeg is more centrally located as related to his territory, which stretches from Port Arthur to the Pacific coast.

A Merry Christmas

**Jerry Shea, *Shea's Hippodrome Theatre,*
Toronto.**

Tom Daley, *Tivoli Theatre,* Toronto.

Jules Bernstein, *Loew's Theatre,* Toronto.

George Rotsky, *Palace Theatre,* Montreal.

J. M. Franklin, *R.K.O. Corp.,* Canada.

Jack Arthur, *Famous Players Canadian Corp.*



A Happy New Year

From Us to You

CLAIR HAGUE, *General Manager, Canadian Universal*

"JIM" O'LOGHLIN, *District Manager Fox Film Corp.*

B. F. LYON, *Can. Sales Manager, Vitagraph Inc.,
Distributors Warner Bros. Pictures and Vitaphone*

J. F. MYERS, *Toronto Branch Manager, Vitagraph Inc.,
Distributors Warner Bros. Pictures and Vitaphone*

HAROLD PFAFF, *District Manager, Tiffany Productions of
Canada Limited*

L. ERNEST OUIMET, *Special Representative, Van Deuren
Corp.*

WALTER DAVIS, *R.K.O., Capitol, Winnipeg*

TOM BRADY, *Canadian Representative, Pathe Exchange Inc.*

HENRY L. NATHANSON, *General Manager, Regal Films
Limited*

WALTER GOLDING, *Capitol, St. John, N.B.*

BEN. GELDSEALER, *Famous Players Canadian Corp.*

LOUIS ROSENFELD, *Canadian General Manager, Columbia
Pictures Corp.*

JAMES TRAVIS, *General Manager, Canadian Educational
Films Limited*

SID TAUBE, *Special Canadian Representative, Sono Art-
World Wide Pictures*

HARRY GINSLER, *Iola Theatre, Toronto*

MESSRS. CHARLES AND HYMAN ROTENBERG, *Pickford
and Chateau Theatres*

NELSON SHEA, *Uptown Theatre, Toronto*

Round About the Studios



Looks like Mary Ann Jackson, leading lady of "Our Gang" comedies, has turned "vamp." "Our Gang" comedies are released through M-G-M.

Raymond Hackett and Mary Doran have been added to the cast of "Manhattan Serenade," the musical production designed by Sammy Lee which is now being produced as an M-G-M colortone short feature.

Maurice Chevalier's newest starring vehicle, "The Big Pond," is now in actual production before the cameras of the Paramount Long Island studio, under the direction of Hobart Henley, who made "The Lady Lies" and "The River Inn." Claudette Colbert has the leading feminine role in this talker version of the play by George Middleton and A. E. Thomas.

"Mamba," Tiffany's all-Technicolor feature production, is now in the course of editing by Albert Rogell, who also directed the picture. The cast is headed by Jean Hersholt, Ralph Forbes and Eleanor Boardman. It is said that "Mamba," when completed, will be shown for a long run in New York, probably at the Gaiety Theatre.

Preparations for the filming of the second annual Fox Movietone Follies entitled "Fox Movietone Follies of 1930" are under way at the West Coast Studios. Owen Davis, Sr., who recently returned to Hollywood from a between pictures vacation at his New York home, is on the job with two stenographers taking down the story for the Follies as he dictates it.

English melodrama as produced in Hollywood by Fox Films under the title of "The Sky Hawk," has found favor with the British. English censors passed the production without eliminations and English movie audiences will have the chance to relive the sights and sounds of Zeppelin raids over the British capital when "The Sky Hawk" begins an extended engagement at the Tivoli in London, January 20.

This Fox Movietone, directed by John Blystone, is being shown twice daily at the Gaiety Theatre.

Robert McGowan, who has been directing "Our Gang" at the Hal Roach Studios ever since the kid comedies began, is taking his first vacation.

After eight years McGowan believes he is entitled to a real vacation, and leaves this week with his family for an extended stay in Honolulu. The "Our Gang" Comedies will be directed by James Horne, Roach director, during McGowan's absence.

The Gang at present consists of Mary Ann Jackson, Wheezer, Farina, Jackie Cooper, Norman Chaney and Pete, the pup. For the past two years Hal Roach Comedies, which include "Our Gang," have been distributed by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

Paul Dickey, fiction writer, has been added to the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer staff, and will do original stories and dialogue also special adaptations of stories for sound pictures.

Universal has purchased the Broadway play, "The Little Accident," by Floyd Dell and Thomas Mitchell.

Sue Carol has been assigned the leading role in "The Golden Calf" to be directed by Millard Webb. The cast already includes Marjorie White, El Brendel, Frank Albertson, Jack Mulhall, Richard Keene and Noel Francis, former Ziegfeld actress who recently arrived at the Fox Movietone Studios. Miss Carol's last talking picture was "The Lone Star Ranger," from the Zane Grey story.

Colin Clive, who made a dash of over 7,000 miles from London to Hollywood in order to play the role of Captain Stanhope in the Tiffany-Gainsborough production, "Journey's End," now being directed by James Whale at the Tiffany Studios, has become a regular Hollywood booster and tells his many English friends in Hollywood that he has "gone native." In the space of ten days' time Clive jumped from London fog to California sunshine.

John Erskine's new book, "Sincerity," has been purchased by Universal for picture purposes. It is Professor Erskine's first dramatic novel, unrelated to historical characters, and is one of the big sellers in the Bobbs-Merrill list.

"Troopers Three," Tiffany's picturization of life in the U. S. Cavalry, is now being edited at their Hollywood studios. The cast includes Dorothy Gulliver, Rex Lease, Slim Summerville, Roscoe Karns, Tom London, Joseph Girard and Walter Perry. The story was written by Arthur Guy Empey.



A scene from Columbia's all-talking-singing roadshow production, "The Song of Love," starring Belle Baker with Ralph Graves and David Durand.

MR. PATHE

The All-Year Round Santa Claus

Here's What Mr. Pathe Has Already Delivered

PARIS BOUND

ANN HARDING'S first talking picture. A tremendous draw wherever shown.

THE AWFUL TRUTH

INA CLAIRE in the role and play in which she captured Broadway.

LUCKY IN LOVE

MORTON DOWNEY'S all singing, all talking knock-out. It's sure-fire in appeal.

THE SOPHOMORE

EDDIE QUILLAN'S record-breaking comedy. Funniest sound picture to date.

BIG NEWS

ROBT. ARMSTRONG and CAROL LOMBARD in the best newspaper picture ever made.

SAILOR'S HOLIDAY

ALAN HALE and SALLY EILERS in a big day in a sailor's life ashore.

HER PRIVATE AFFAIR

ANN HARDING'S second superlative production. A strong dramatic characterization.

OH, YEAH

ROBT. ARMSTRONG and JAS. GLEASON. Funniest team of dialogue comedians.

RED HOT RHYTHM

A red hot box office number playing at a sizzling temperature. Strong cast.

THE RACKETEER

ROBT. ARMSTRONG'S third box office hit on the season's program.

Bell-Ringers That Will Ring in the New Year

HIS FIRST COMMAND

WM. BOYD'S first production this season. A thrilling story of army life.

THE GRAND PARADE

ALL THE GLAMOR and melody of the old-time minstrel show plus a real story.

THIS THING CALLED LOVE

EDMUND LOWE—CONSTANCE BENNETT, two great box office names linked for first time.

THE GREENWICH VILLAGE FOLLIES

MOST GEORGEOUS SPECTACLE yet produced on the audible screen. Sure-fire.

TREASURE GIRL

GEO. GERSHWIN'S successful musical comedy operetta. Lilted tunes, clever lyrics.

PAINTED DESERT

WM. BOYD in a romantic, adventurous drama. Photographed entirely in colors.

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